

CONGRATULATING LA GACETA
NEWSPAPER ON ITS 100TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize La Gaceta, the nation's only trilingual newspaper, on its 100th anniversary. Since 1922, La Gaceta has connected our community with news and served as a symbol of Tampa's rich history and culture.

The story of La Gaceta's founding began in 1913, when Victoriano Manteiga migrated from Cuba to Tampa's Ybor City. Victoriano worked as a lector in the Morgan Cigar Factory where he would read novels, local and world news, and political publications to factory workers as they rolled cigars—a staple of Tampa. In 1922, Victoriano founded La Gaceta with the help of Dr. Jose Avellanal, director of the Centro Español mutual aid society. A Spanish language newspaper, La Gaceta was created to serve the needs of the growing Latin, immigrant population of Tampa. Creating a space to tell local stories, discuss politics and world events, share recipes, highlight sports and other areas of interest, La Gaceta was very well received by the community. One of its most notable early recognitions beyond Tampa came in 1950, when La Gaceta was awarded the title of best Spanish language newspaper in the U.S. by the Linguaphone Institute.

In the 1950s, the newspaper grew its readership by publishing in English and later Italian, further serving the community and preserving another language and culture of Tampa's population. To this day, La Gaceta remains the country's only trilingual newspaper. It was also in the 1950s that Victoriano's son, Roland, grew in his role with the paper. Roland founded a column, *As We Heard It*, where he would predict political races, provide commentary and share his insider knowledge regarding politics. Roland's column gained much attention locally, statewide and even nationally from politicians like former presidents Jimmy Carter and George Bush. Both Roland and *As We Heard It* would become known as major political influences.

Today *As We Heard It* and La Gaceta are run by Roland's son, Patrick Manteiga. Owned and operated by the Manteiga's for three generations now, it is the oldest family-owned newspaper in the United States. As editor and publisher, Patrick leads a hardworking team of individuals who produce weekly editions of La Gaceta for readers to enjoy.

To commemorate La Gaceta's historic achievement, documentary producer Lynn Marvin Dingfelder, an Emmy award-winning Tampa local, released the film "La Gaceta The Documentary: 100 Years and 3 Generations Behind America's Only Trilingual Newspaper" this year. Operating her own production company for over 20 years now, Lynn has shared many stories of our community through her films and has described Tampa as a place with deep love and respect for its history. This film is a symbol of that admiration and a way to both share and preserve La Gaceta's story.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I congratulate La Gaceta on this monumental

achievement of its 100th anniversary. As the oldest Spanish language newspaper and the second oldest minority-owned newspaper in the United States, La Gaceta demonstrates the great value and impact that ethnic publications hold in our nation. I am eager to see where La Gaceta's future will lead it and all of its readers across Tampa Bay and beyond.

CONGRATULATING LONNIE STEPHENSON FOR 47 YEARS WITH
THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHER-
HOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
(IBEW)

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lonnie Stephenson on 47 years of service and dedication to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

Mr. Stephenson joined the IBEW Local 145 in the Quad Cities in 1975 as an apprentice. Mr. Stephenson's later took positions as the union's Business Manager, International Representative and International Vice President. He was elected President of the union in 2015 and was re-elected twice. During his tenure as President, union membership steadily increased and currently stands at 775,000 members. He has worked as an advocate for accelerating IBEW's commitment to diversity, inclusion and equity through the IBEW Strong Program, which aims to recruit more people of color and women as union members. Mr. Stephenson advocated for trade unionism and worked tirelessly alongside other unions and associations throughout the pandemic to ensure America's labor workforce was rightly recognized as essential workers.

Under the leadership of Mr. Stephenson, IBEW has supported the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which included pro-union job creation provisions, and the Inflation Reduction Act, which will provide substantial funding for multiemployer pension programs. I am confident that IBEW will continue to grow and thrive for many years to come because of Mr. Stephenson's commitment and service to workers.

It is because of Illinois' hardworking and dedicated leaders like Lonnie Stephenson that I am especially proud to serve in Congress. Madam Speaker, I would like to, again, formally congratulate Lonnie Stephenson for over four decades of service to Illinoisans.

HONORING AND REMEMBERING
U.S. ARMY VETERAN JOHN E.
HUGHES

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John E. Hughes for his dedicated service to our country.

Mr. Hughes was born in 1945 and attended Hadley-Luzerne Central School District schools, where he was actively engaged in

academic and student life. He enlisted in the United States Army on June 13th, 1966, serving with Company C, 124th Signal Battalion, 4th Infantry Division as a Radio Teletype operator in Vietnam.

During his time in the Army, Mr. Hughes was stationed at the Central Highlands in Vietnam, where he transported soldiers and supplies to and from firebases. While participating in a Reaction Force Patrol, Mr. Hughes saved the life of his fellow soldier and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for Heroism for his selfless act. For his tremendous commitment to service, he was also awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal.

Upon his honorable discharge from the Army in March 1968, Mr. Hughes was employed as a heavy equipment operator for Finch Prime & Co. He maintained participation in multiple veterans' organizations, including the William J. Varney American Legion Post #862, the VFW Post #5836, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Tri-Town Seniors, and publicly served as Assessor for the Town of Hasley. Mr. Hughes married the love of his life in 1970, and they raised their beautiful family of 3 children together.

Throughout his life, Mr. Hughes demonstrated exemplary service to his country and members of his community. I am proud to recognize him during the Saratoga County Veterans Association's Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I would like to commend the life of Mr. John E. Hughes and thank him for his brave service to our country.

HONORING ASSESSOR SUE HORNE

HON. DOUG LaMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. LaMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Nevada County Assessor and a close friend of mine, Sue Horne. Sue's leadership in Nevada County over the years serves as a testament to her outstanding work and her dedication to the community. It has been a pleasure to work with her and I know the people of Nevada County have benefited greatly from her time in office.

Throughout Sue's career she has worked hard to represent the best interests of the people. Her service to Nevada County residents began during her work under 2 State Assembly members as a staffer. After that time, she was elected to the Nevada County Board of Supervisors for 8 years, where she would serve a year as Chair. During her time on the Board, she would also serve as the Chair of the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) in 2007.

After her service on the Board of Supervisors, Sue was elected as the Nevada County Assessor in 2010. As Assessor, Sue worked to ensure that Nevada County taxpayers receive a fair and accurate assessment of their taxable property in accordance with California tax law. She is also a member of the Northern California Assessors Association and served as its President in 2019. She has served 3 terms in her role as Assessor.

Never one to slow down, Sue has also been an active volunteer in the community. She has

volunteered with our local Friends of Nevada County Military for many years, serving on its board and helping to pack monthly care packages for local service members deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2006, she helped found the Sierra Nevada Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America and served as the organization's first president that same year.

It has been a great pleasure to work with Sue. I thank her for being someone I can always rely on and call for advice. Sue and her husband, Bruce, have been married 48 years, live in Alta Sierra and have 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren. In her "other" life, she loves to travel, hike the Sierra, mountain bike, and loves being with her family and friends. I wish Sue the best in her retirement, and I will always appreciate our talks. I thank Sue for her service to the people of Nevada County, she will be missed greatly.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF PROFESSOR AND AUTHOR, JACK E. FERNÁNDEZ

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and contributions of Jack Eugene Fernandez, a Tampa native and true renaissance man, who passed away on July 31, 2022 at the age of 92.

Jack was born and raised in Tampa by his parents, Jacinto Fernández and Matilda Fernández-Vila, along with his sister Anita Fernández DeMesa. He spent much of his childhood exploring and playing around Downtown Tampa where his father owned a shoe repair shop. It was in his father's store that Jack would eventually meet his beloved wife, Sylvia.

Jack graduated from Hillsborough High School in 1947. From there, he went to the University of Florida and—all before the age of 24—earned his Bachelors, Masters and PhD degrees in Organic Chemistry. Jack was later drafted by the Army and stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., where he worked for the civilian Operations Research Office. Following his military service, Jack turned to academia. He moved to Durham, North Carolina to pursue a teaching opportunity as well as a Damon Ruyon Grant to conduct cancer research at Duke University. He then worked as a research chemist at the Eastman Kodak company in Kingsport, Tennessee before deciding to move back to his hometown of Tampa with Sylvia and their 3 sons.

Jack and his family returned to Tampa in 1960 when instruction first began at the newly established University of South Florida. He worked as a chemistry professor with the USF charter faculty and sponsored over 20 graduate students, published over 50 research articles in peer reviewed chemical journals and wrote 5 chemistry textbooks throughout his tenure. He even served abroad as a Fulbright Scholar in Madrid, Spain and Bogota, Colombia. Over the course of his career with the University, Jack received 5 teaching awards, including the All University Teacher of the Year Award.

Following his retirement from USF in 1995, Jack turned to his next career as a writer.

Taking inspiration from his own experiences and the stories he heard growing up, Jack wrote Tampa-based novels, short stories and poems as well as columns for *La Gaceta*, *Cigar City Magazine* and the *Tampa Tribune*. His most acclaimed work was his novel, *Café Con Leche*, which tells the story of the multi-racial, multi-cultural community within Tampa's historic Ybor City during the early 19th century.

Above all else, Jack loved his family. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Sylvia, and his 3 sons and their wives: Jack and Anne, Albert and Nancy, and Rudy and Meg. He is also survived by his 6 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Jack Eugene Fernández for his lifelong commitment to service above self. As a veteran, scientist, teacher, writer and family man, Jack touched the lives of so many. All in our Tampa Bay community are eternally grateful for the legacy he leaves behind and will continue to cherish his wonderful contributions to our home.

HONORING SPOKANE COUNTY SHERIFF OZZIE KNEZOVICH

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my longtime friend, Spokane Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich. At the end of December, Ozzie will retire from public service after serving more than 29 years in law enforcement, including 16 years as Spokane County Sheriff.

Sheriff Knezovich began this law enforcement career as a patrol officer for the City of Olympia, WA, and the City of Rock Springs, WY, before joining the force in Spokane. Here, he rose through the ranks serving first as a Field Training Officer, then as a Property Crimes Detective, Sex Crimes Detective, SWAT Team Operator, SWAT Team Supervisor, Patrol Supervisor, and later as a Training Supervisor, where he remained until he was elected as the top law enforcement officer of Spokane County in 2006.

Sheriff Knezovich has faithfully served the people of Spokane County as Sheriff for the last 16 years, during which he earned the trust and confidence of our entire community. In his role as Sheriff, Ozzie oversees a vast law enforcement force of officers, who under his direction, protect and serve nearly 546,040 Spokane County residents across more than 1,781 square miles.

A devoted public servant dedicated to reaching out to the community and Spokane County youth, Sheriff Knezovich serves on several outreach boards including the United Way, Daybreak Youth Services, the Salvation Army, Frontier Behavioral Health, the Arc of Spokane, Boy Scouts of America, Community Service Team. He is also the Founding Board Member for the Spokane County Human Rights Task Force.

Sheriff Knezovich is a true public servant who is always eager to make a difference. His long-held goal has been to provide effective and efficient law enforcement service while

building strong and trusting relationships within the community. He has certainly achieved that goal and so much more. Sheriff Knezovich's dedication to and impact in Spokane County is seen far beyond the walls of the Sheriff's Department, as he has proven himself to be a catalyst in improving the lives of Spokane County citizens.

Having first been elected in 2004 myself, I've had the honor of working with Sheriff Knezovich throughout his entire career. I've enjoyed the many projects we collaborated on to make Eastern Washington a safer place to live, work, and raise a family. He's been a tremendous partner, and he will be dearly missed by all those who had the pleasure of working with him.

Madam Speaker, Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich has dedicated his entire adult life to public service. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedication and selflessness displayed by Sheriff Knezovich for nearly three decades. While Sheriff Knezovich is deserving of far greater accolades from a grateful public, the United States House of Representatives extends our sincere appreciation and best wishes for a retirement of joy and peace.

CELEBRATING 240 YEARS OF THE MINGO CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the congregation of The Mingo Creek Presbyterian Church for 240 years of service to God and their community in southwestern Pennsylvania.

As early as 1774, Scotch-Irish settlers of America's first western frontier gathered at the site of Mingo Creek Presbyterian Church. Records show that the first official Christian worship services took place in 1782 and have continued uninterrupted to this day. The original meeting house was used by The Mingo Creek Society, a group of dissidents involved in the protest against the federal whiskey excise tax beginning in 1794. The Mingo Creek log structure and the surrounding grounds served as "the cradle of the Whisky Rebellion." There, militia leaders met and plotted the first revolt to test our young republic. Major James McFarlane, a veteran of the American Revolution, was one of the few killed in the uprising and is among the rebel figures buried in the Mingo Cemetery.

The Church's first permanent pastor, Dr. Samuel Ralston, arrived as an Irish missionary in 1796 and served until 1837. His legacy was far-reaching, as his descendants remained active in the Mingo Creek Church through the 1960s. Throughout this time, the Church underwent several changes. Mingo Creek began its Mission and community outwork in 1841, which are still critical ventures. Curved walls were added in 1903, while a manse and Christian education building were built in 1924 and 1958, respectively. These changes allowed the Church to welcome more inside its walls, including traveling dignitaries. Among those was President Harry S. Truman, who delivered a speech at the Church's early 19th-century wooden pulpit.